

This Week in 4th Infantry Division History

22-28 April

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WWI

1918 Between the 21st and the 28th, the 4th Division, less its artillery, was moved by rail from Camp Greene to the New Jersey and New York camps. Some of the units had their journey broken at Washington, DC and enjoyed a two hour period of marching, for exercise, through the outlying streets of the capitol. As soon as the units arrived at the embarkations camps a thorough inspection was made of the men's individual equipment and uniforms and anything that showed the slightest sign of wear was discarded and replaced.

WWII

1944 28 April Operation Tiger. While practicing amphibious landings at Slapton Sands, England, 4th Infantry Division task force elements were attacked by German E-boats which had slipped past the protective naval perimeter. Over 700 personnel were killed.

1945 The 4th Infantry Division resumed its advance to the south clearing both Ellwangen and Aalen of determined enemy resistance. It was then necessary to complete a building by building search for bypassed enemy personnel who began inflicting casualties on the follow-up troops. By 25 April, the bulk of the 8th and 12th Inf was on the south side of the Danube River, crossing the Danube at Laningen over a treadway bridge. By 27 April the Division continued the advance to the southeast from the Danube advancing up to 20 km against scattered resistance. The Division continued southeast to the Lech River where the 8th, 12th & 22nd Inf moved to their assembly areas in preparation for crossing the river. Since the enemy had blown the bridges, the engineers began constructing Bailey Bridges for the Division to use for the crossing.

VN

1967 The Division continued Operation Francis Marion with limited contact with enemy forces during this week.

1968 Operation MacArthur continued with company sized patrols throughout the Division's AO. Throughout the week company-sized firefights were experienced by the 35th Infantry, the 22nd Infantry, and the 14th Infantry as they mounted patrols in suspected NVA staging areas.

1969 1st Brigade continued pacification operations in Binh Dinh Province. 2nd Brigade continued Operation Putnam Panther in western Kontum Province against infiltration routes of the NVA. 3rd Brigade continued Operation Greene Queen against suspected NVA infiltration around Special Forces Camps in Kontum Province.

1970 Operation Eichelberger Black ended on 24 April, while Operation Wayne Wind continued. During Operation Wayne Wind after sporadic contact with the enemy, a company sized element made contact with an unknown size enemy force. On 27 April a helicopter with the command group of the 3-12 Inf was shot down while flying over Company D, 3-12 Inf. All aboard were killed including the 3-12th Inf Battalion Commander, the S-3, and key artillery personnel.

OIF 1

2003 On 23 April DMAIN was settling into the palace compound at Tikrit. 3rd BCT moved into position at Samarra, while 1st BCT moved into Tikrit. 2nd BCT seized the airport at Baqubah which would become FOB Warhorse. 4th BCT (Aviation) established their base at FOB Speicher. On 26 April 2nd BCT entered Baqubah seizing control of the compound of the Ministry of Pharmaceuticals. Bunkers were filled with top secret documents and 55 gallon drums of unknown chemicals.